

REMARKS

Claims 8, 76 and 77 are cancelled. Claims 5, 6, 9, and 10 are amended to more clearly and distinctly claim the invention. The claims now pending are Claims 5-7, and 9-11. The present amendment is made to put the claims in condition for allowance. It is believed that no additional search is required. Claims 5, 6, 9 and 10 and the claims dependent thereon now incorporate the element of an inert content of 3% or less originally presented in claim 8. No new matter has been added by this amendment. Entry of the amendment is requested.

As amended claim 5 and 6 are directed to a multifilament yarn made from a specific polylactic acid resin having a relative viscosity of 2.7 to 3.9, a Sn content of 0 to 30 ppm, a residual monomer content of 0 to 0.5% by weight, an inert content of 3% or less prepared from L-lactic acid wherein the L-isomer is at least 98%. The yarn made from the specific polylactic acid resin has a tensile strength of 3.9 cN/dtex or more and a contraction ratio in boiling water of 12% or less.

Applicants have found that when the inert content of the specified polylactic acid resin is 3% or less, the uniformity of the multifilament in the longitudinal direction is improved and the stability of the fiber is also improved. Applicants found that the viscosity, crystal orientation and tensile strength of the resultant fiber is improved during the spinning and drawing steps. Apparently, the reduction of the Sn content to 0 to 30 ppm and the monomer content is dependent on the reduction of the inert content to 3% or less. See Table 3-1 on page 36 [0151] of the specification. Under No. 3-7, where the inert content is above 3%, i.e. 3.8%, the unevenness of the yarn increased to ± 15 showing that the stability of the yarn is less. However, in No 3-1-6 and 8, the evenness of the yarn is shown to be improved when the inert content is 3% or less.

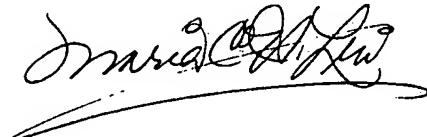
The Examiner has pointed to JP102877735 and USP6114495 (Kolstad) both of which disclosed fibers made of polylactic acid resin and contend that the claims of the present application is obvious. Reconsideration of the rejection in view of the amendment of the claims is requested.

A careful review of both references showed that neither references described nor suggested that uniformity of the yarn fiber in the longitudinal direction can be improved by

controlling the inert content to 3% or less together with controlling the content of the L-isomer of the linear lactic acid monomer, the Sn content to 0-30 ppm, the monomer content to 0 to 0.5% to obtain a resin with the proper viscosity and crystal orientation. Since neither reference is concerned with the uniformity of the resultant fiber in the longitudinal direction and did not teach, describe or suggest how to improve the uniformity of the resultant spun and drawn fiber, the invention as claimed cannot be regarded as obvious under the law in view of JP10287735, or Kolstad or a combination of these references.

Applicant believes that the claims as amended are allowable and an early allowance is requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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